



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR ARMAMENT CENTER (AFMC)
EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA

11 FEB 04

Mr. Steven M. Seiber
Chief, Natural Resources Branch
AAC/EMSN
501 DeLeon Street, Suite 101
Eglin AFB FL 32542-5133

Mr. Robert J. Evans
Health Physicist
Region IV – Division of Nuclear Materials Safety
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive
Arlington, TX 76011

Dear Mr. Evans

This letter is intended to inform you of the No Effect determination (attached) as it pertains to the Endangered Species Act for the reclamation and decommissioning uranium munition site on area C-74L at Eglin AFB, Florida.

The on-site evaluation, conducted by Eglin's Environmental Management Directorate, Stewardship Division, Natural Resources Branch (AAC/EMSN) on July 30, 2003, is meant to address the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) concerns in their letter to Dr. Blair Spitzberg dated July 7, 2003 concerning the Okaloosa darter (*Etheostoma okaloosae*). Our biologist indicates there is no potential for direct or indirect effects from the proposed action. The area of disturbance is not located in a position where potential runoff would be a concern for the Okaloosa darter.

The Natural Resources Branch made a "no effect" determination concerning the reclamation and decommissioning of area C-74L at Eglin AFB. If you require more information, please feel free to contact Mike Nunley or myself at (850) 882-4164.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S.M. Seiber".

STEPHEN M. SEIBER, GS-13

Attachment: No Effect Determination



**RESULTS AND DETERMINATION OF AN ON-SITE INSPECTION OF THE
RECLAMATION AND DECOMMISSIONING URANIUM MUNITION SITE,
AREA C-74L**

Eglin AFB, Florida

This document provides environmental information for interested parties in reference to the decommissioning of a depleted uranium munitions site on Eglin Air Force Base (AFB) located on Test Area C-74L. The on-site evaluation, conducted by Eglin's Environmental Management Directorate, Stewardship Division, Natural Resources Branch (AAC/EMSN) on July 30, 2003, is meant to address the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) concerns in their letter to Dr. Blair Spitzsberg on July 7, 2003 about the Okaloosa darter (*Etheostoma okaloosae*).

The proposed action includes excavating the top six inches of soil on three 15 ft.x15 ft. plots in the test area. Numerous smaller (shovel) sites will also be taken out of the area. The excavated soil will be stored in proper containers and eventually removed to a nuclear decontamination/storage facility off of Eglin AFB. The proposed excavation site is separated by a berm from the downhill slope to the stream (Figure 1). Erosion from this disturbance will be minimal and isolated to the area due to the large berm. The excavation sites slope downward in the opposite direction (east) of the stream (Figure 1). There would be no erosion issues at this site. Furthermore, there are several additional berms (approximately 4 ft. high) between the site and the stream that were constructed over a year ago to prevent erosion to the stream (Figure 2).

The Natural Resources Branch has evaluated potential effects to the land or water uses or natural resources within Test Area C-74L due to the reclamation and decommissioning of a uranium munition site and how erosion may affect the Okaloosa darter stream. As a result, EMSN has determined that these activities are anticipated to have NO EFFECT on Okaloosa darter individuals, populations, or habitat.

Prepared by: *J. Mike Nunley* 11 FEB 04
Mike Nunley
Environmental Scientist
Natural Resource Branch - SAIC
Date

Reviewed by: *Bruce Hagedorn* 11 Feb 04
Bruce Hagedorn
Supervisory Biologist
Natural Resources Branch
Date



Figure 1. Berm separating excavation site and western slope toward stream.

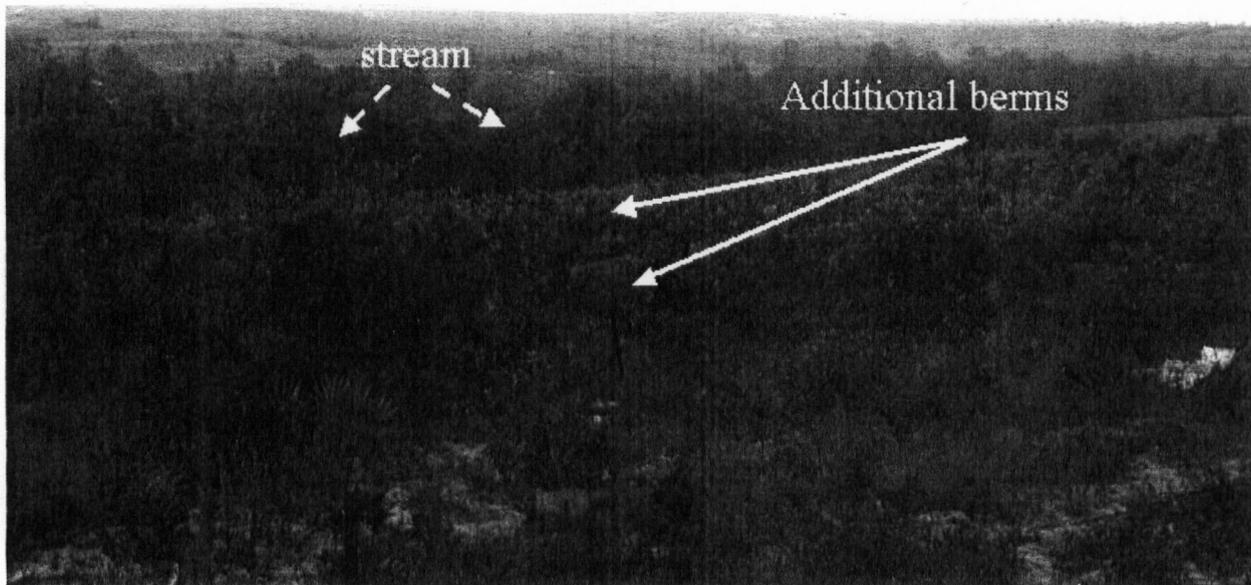


Figure 2. View toward stream and additional berms to prevent erosion.